

Rural Sanitary District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Area, 30,609 Acres ; Population, 5822 (1901).

ANNUAL * REPORT

For the Year ended December 31, 1902.

REGISTERED BIRTHS :

Whitchurch District	...	...	...	...	69
Overton District ...	...	...	...	...	44
St. Mary Bourne District	...	...	...	...	35
Total	...	...	...	...	148

DEATHS :

Whitchurch District	...	...	...	...	30
Overton District ...	...	...	...	...	15
St. Mary Bourne ...	...	...	...	...	15
Total	...	...	...	...	60

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

Whitchurch District	...	...	...	...	9
Overton District ...	...	...	...	...	3
St. Mary Bourne ...	...	...	...	...	4
Total	...	...	...	...	16

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS :

Whitchurch Workhouse (ages 74 to 84 years)	...	...	...	...	3
Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	0
Total	...	...	...	...	3

Comparing this with the previous year we have :—

BIRTHS :				1901.	1902.
Whitchurch District	...	...	...	69	69
Overton District	...	...	...	57	44
St. Mary Bourne District	...	...	...	26	35
Total	...	...	...	152	148

DEATHS :				1901.	1902.
Whitchurch District	...	...	...	43	30
Overton District	...	...	...	19	15
St. Mary Bourne District	...	...	...	15	15
Total	...	...	...	77	60

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :				1901.	1902.
Whitchurch District	...	...	...	9	9
Overton District ...	...	...	...	5	3
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	3	4
Total	...	...	...	17	16

DEATH RATES :				1901.	1902.
General ...	...	...	...	13.22	12.22 10'3
Infant Mortality	...	...	...	111. 8	108. 0

BIRTH RATES PER 1000 OF POPULATION :—1901, 26.1 ; 1902, 25.42.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, adopted February, 1890, shows the following results :—

WHITCHURCH DISTRICT :

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	21
Total						23

OVERTON DISTRICT :

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total						7

ST. MARY BOURNE DISTRICT :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						2

Total in Sanitary Area 32, as compared with 77 in 1901.

In March CHICKEN POX was made notifiable for a period of six months, with the result that 33 cases were notified, of which 2 were in the Whitechurch District, 30 in the Overton District, and 1 in St. Mary Bourne District.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 0.

The following is the return of new cases of Sickness attended as paupers by the Medical Officer of each District during the year :—

Whitechurch	...	...	...	114	as against	224	in 1901
Overton	...	...	...	50	„	91	„
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	70	„	82	„

Of which Bronchitis and a few cases of Influenza and Diarrhœa form the chief features.

With regard to the health of the District generally the year 1902, notwithstanding its variable and ungenial weather, may be classed as exceptionally healthy ; for although at the beginning of the year there was a certain amount of INFLUENZA there has been an absence of any general epidemic of this or any other disease, with the exception of CHICKEN POX, which chiefly affected the Overton District.

SCARLET FEVER, though not absent from the District, has shown a marked decline, there being only 24 cases as compared with 66 in the previous year. Of these 24 cases 21 were notified in the Whitechurch District, 2 in the Overton District, and 1 at Eggbury in the St. Mary Bourne District, 22 of which cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, which was only empty from May 18th to June 26th.

VACCINATION of children under the Act appears to have been well carried out, and in view of the possible extension of the epidemic of Small Pox from London to the Provinces a notice was issued by the Guardians in January, recommending all persons who have not been successfully vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the last 10 years to apply to the Public Vaccinator of the District in which they reside, with the result that many people availed themselves of this recommendation. Arrangements were subsequently made by the District Council with a view to providing temporary accommodation in the event of a case of Small Pox being introduced to the District, but it is difficult to foresee what is to be done with such a case while the necessary details are completed.

DISINFECTION of premises, bedding and clothing has been carefully carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances under direction, and in one instance bedding destroyed.

Disinfectants have been supplied as required.

As regards DRAINAGE you are aware there is no regular system of Sewerage in any part, but in the more populous parts drains and gutters have been laid for the conveyance of surface water, usually to the river ; into these drains and gutters a good deal of foul material from the road finds its way, and also slop water and refuse from sinks and back premises, but in no instance does any closet connect with these drains. The gutters in some parts are flat and have very little run, and become blocked with paper and straw blown in from the roads, allowing accumulation which at times is offensive, especially if the cleansing is not sufficiently attended to by the scavenger of the locality ; but in this respect there has been considerable improvement, the gutters being cleansed two or three times a week, and in some parts daily ; the inhabitants might materially assist in abating any nuisance from this cause by flushing with a pail of water and sweeping the gutter in front of their houses.

There being no spell of hot and dry weather the Nuisance complained of from certain drains in Whitchurch during the previous summer was much reduced, but the proposed scheme for flushing by means of an inlet from the river was partly carried out, though not till late in the year owing to bad weather and other unavoidable circumstances. It appears to work well, but its effect cannot be fully judged till it has had its trial in a hot and dry season ; but in any case the portion of the drain below the hatch should have a proper bottom and sides so as to obtain a better flow and allow of thorough cleansing.

The half-barrel drain pipe which has been laid to convey the drainage from a part of London Street through Mrs. Scammell's garden is a great improvement, and does away with much smell from the old ditch.

The WATER SUPPLY of the District is by wells and tube pumps, the latter being on the increase yearly, and more attention is paid to the covering of wells and raising of kerbs so as to avoid pollution from surface water. Owners of property and their agents should be particular in ascertaining that their wells are properly covered and kept in good order.

The DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT in the District is mainly on the pail system or cemented vaults, and the contents are ordered to be emptied at regular intervals by the scavenger appointed for the locality and carted away. Ashes or dry earth should be used in the pails where practicable.

PIGGERIES near dwellings, as before stated, have almost entirely disappeared through the action of the Sanitary Authority, and should not be allowed to be re-introduced.

The SLAUGHTERHOUSES have been inspected and cleansed as required.

The DAIRIES and COWSHEDS have been inspected, and attention given to cleanliness of cattle, buildings and utensils ; and in the case of a dairy in the Overton District a new concrete floor was put and the drainage repaired and improved.

The BAKEHOUSES have been inspected and whitewashing attended to as required ; the back premises of a bakehouse in London Street, Whitchurch, were in bad condition, and ordered to be improved.

Several old dirty and dilapidated HOUSES have been attended to, whitewashed and improved, and one closed.

Many of the COTTAGES, as previously stated, are too small and incommodious for the number in the family, so leading to overcrowding, which might be prevented if the owners and agents were more particular in the selection of tenants suitable for the size of the house. Overcrowding has been abated in the case of three families.

Several new houses have been built in different parts of the District, and some old ones pulled down and re-built. It would be a good thing if more were served likewise.

Inspections have been made under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, attention given to their cleanliness and sanitary condition, and in the case of a workshop in Whitchurch where a case of Scarlet Fever occurred in the house of the employer the child was at once removed to the Isolation Hospital, the work suspended for ten days, and the house and workroom disinfected and cleansed. Attention has also been given to the case of home workers, and specially with regard to Infectious Illness.

When Infectious Illness has occurred in a house the children have been excluded from school by notice to the teachers.

The good work done by the Sanitary Authority for many years has resulted in the general improvement of the District and the gradual disappearance of nearly all the old bad places ; but there are still some few old privies over the river which it would be well if the owners would remove, and the custom of throwing refuse of all kinds into the river should be prevented as far as possible.

I have, as before, at all times received cordial co-operation from my professional neighbours, as also from the Inspector of Nuisances, with whom I have been in constant communication, and who has submitted the following summary of work carried out under his supervision by order of the District Council and Medical Officer of Health :—

Cottages Whitewashed and Repaired	...	...	...	40
„ Disinfected	...	...	...	32
Bedding, &c., Disinfected	...	...	...	32
„ Destroyed	...	...	...	1
Cottages made Fit for Occupation	...	...	...	4
Certificates Granted for Water Supply (8 houses)	...	...	...	4
Wells Cleaned Out	...	...	...	5
Well Kerbs, New and Repaired	...	...	...	13
Public Pumps Repaired	...	...	...	15 times
Closets, New	...	...	...	9
„ Repaired and Improved	...	...	...	16
Drains Repaired and Improved	...	...	...	10
New Frames and Covers to Catchpits	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses Inspected	...	...	...	12
Slaughterhouses Inspected	...	...	...	5
Dairy and Cowsheds Inspected	...	...	...	15
Schools Disinfected	...	...	...	5
Improved Water Supply to Cottages	...	...	...	5
River Course, St. Mary Bourne, cleaned out	...	...	...	twice
Pig-stye Removed	...	...	...	1
Factory and Workshops Inspections	...	...	...	6
Workroom Disinfected	...	...	...	twice
New Floor to Dairy and Drainage Improved	...	...	...	1

I am, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

HENRY HEMSTED,

Medical Officer of Health,

R.S.D., Whitchurch, Hants.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WHITCHURCH, HANTS,

January 19th, 1903.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1902 and Previous Years.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892	5658	148	26.1	28	189.1	115	20.3	8	No INFORMATION.		115	20.3
1893	5658	227	40.1	22	96.9	83	14.6	8			83	14.6
1894	5658	186	32.8	21	112.9	97	17.1	3			97	17.1
1895	5658	190	33.5	18	94.7	87	15.4	11			87	15.4
1896	5658	169	29.8	16	94.2	71	12.5	5			71	12.5
1897	5658	174	30.7	22	126.4	95	16.7	12			95	16.7
1898	5658	182	32.1	25	137.3	95	16.7	10			95	16.7
1899	5658	169	29.8	14	82.8	64	11.3	2			64	11.3
1900	5658	151	26.6	16	105.9	78	13.7	6			78	13.7
1901	5822	152	26.1	17	111.8	77	13.22	8			77	13.22
Average for years 1892-1901.	5674.4	174.8	30.76	19.9	115.20	86.2	15.15	7.3			86.2	15.15
1902	5822	148	25.42	16	108	60	12.02 10.3	3			60	12.02 10.3

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—30,609.

Total population at all ages (at Census of 1901)—5822.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1902 and previous years.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT. 1.				WHITCHURCH DISTRICT AND WORKHOUSE. 2.				OVERTON DISTRICT. 3.				ST. MARY BOURNE DISTRICT. 4.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1892 ...	5658	148	115	28	2958	69	69	15	1668	54	26	10	1032	25	20	3
1893 ...	5658	227	83	22	2958	124	46	11	1668	63	16	6	1032	40	21	5
1894 ...	5658	186	97	21	2958	93	55	14	1668	58	24	4	1032	35	18	3
1895 ...	5658	190	87	18	2958	86	46	11	1668	67	20	5	1032	37	21	2
1896 ...	5658	169	71	16	2958	77	35	8	1668	66	21	5	1032	26	15	3
1897 ...	5658	174	95	22	2958	86	52	8	1668	59	25	11	1032	29	18	3
1898 ...	5658	182	95	25	2958	71	49	6	1668	80	34	14	1032	31	12	5
1899 ...	5658	169	64	14	2958	85	29	5	1668	57	26	8	1032	27	9	1
1900 ...	5658	151	78	16	2958	72	42	7	1668	47	21	9	1032	32	15	0
1901 ...	5822	152	77	17	2974	69	43	9	1671	57	19	5	1177	26	15	3
Averages of Years 1892 to 1901 ...	5674.4	174.8	86.2	19.9	2959.6	83.2	46.6	9.4	1668.3	60.8	23.2	7.7	1046.5	30.8	16.4	2.8
1902 ...	5822	148	60	16	2974	69	30	9	1671	44	15	3	1177	35	15	4

TABLE III.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						W. & H. Whitchurch District.	Overton District.	St. Mary Bourne District.	W. & H. Whitchurch District.	Overton District.	St. Mary Bourne District.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Diphtheria ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	5	...	1	1	...	2	1	1	4	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	24	1	2	16	5	...	...	21	2	1	19	2	1
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Chicken Pox ...	33	5	16	12	...	...	...	2	30	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	65	6	19	31	5	3	1	25	37	3	19	2	1

Isolation Hospital : Whitchurch, Hants.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).			TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Whitchurch District.	Overton District.	St. Mary Bourne District.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Epidemic Influenza ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...
Diarrhœa ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Phthisis... ...	6	...	...	...	1	3	2	5	1	...	1
Other tubercular diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2	...	...
Bronchitis ...	4	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Premature birth ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Heart diseases ...	7	...	...	1	...	2	4	6	...	1	1
Accidents ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Suicides... ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
All other causes ...	30	8	2	1	1	6	12	11	8	11	1
All causes ...	60	16	3	3	2	16	20	30	15	15	3

